Computer Media Tech Meeting – September 20, 2012

Start of meeting began with a taste of iPads, Apple TV, Epson projectors and how to mirror. The demonstration showcased an iPad projecting to the projector without being tethered. Kerry Rubel also brought an iPad and we demonstrated how easy it was to throw your image from the iPad to the projector.

Here is what you would need

1. New projector with HDMI input
2. AppleTV – Cost is $99
   1. Apple TV must connect to Projector with HDMI Cable
   2. AppleTV must have a Ethernet connection to the network
      1. This must be installed by a district approved Vendor
3. iPad – must be an iPad 2 or 3 with iOS 5 or higher
   1. Costs vary depending on the device

We are not quite ready for all this yet. We have to wait for the Refresh project to move forward. This project is headed by Jason Miles who will now be at IT.

Software Discussion

Issues were raised about the lack of input on software. For example, Big Brainz was introduced with little or no input from the Computer Media Techs. We would like to establish a process where after a trial period, there is feedback from Teachers, Computer Media Techs, TAC and the LanAdmin on any new product.

Issues were raised about the lack of training for new and existing software. We have begun a process of introducing trainings at our next meetings. In October, Pierre Phan (waiting for Permission) will present PaperCut to the Computer Media Techs. In November, Amanda Leilliot, will present Edmodo. These in-house trainings will allow for hands-on and question and answer time. We will ask Kris Linville to offer a training session on Schoolnet once we decide what we need. There seems to be a range of experience from beginner to intermediate knowledge about schoolnet.

Orchard was discussed. The move is to upgrade existing old version of Orchard Gold to new version 4.5. Kamy took the lead here and explained that those with server based versions need to upgrade to the latest version 4.5 for Windows 7 compatibility. The cost is $1000 includes upgrade of existing licenses to the new Orchard Gold 4.5 which also came with 100 free licenses for 1 year of the web-based version (Orchard Now).

A small discussion about Renaissance Reading (Accelerated Reading) and Scholastic (SRI and RC). Again, we are trying to get to one program and have district pay. This still is on the back burner and we need to wait until the district is fiscally ready for this move.

Training

Zenworks - Little or no interest in Zenworks. This program is more for LanAdmins

Active Directory – no interest. This is a program more for LanAdmins. However, there is interest in having rights to fix passwords for students.

Papercut – There was interest. We are setting up a training at our next meeting with Pierre to introduce us to the front end use of Papercut.

Edmodo – There was interest. We are setting up a meeting in November for formal training.

That is a far as we got. It seems people like the idea of the split meeting. Time will tell.